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NORTH KESTEVEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1948

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NORTH KESTEVEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector for 1948

Chairman : Mr. W. E. Young, Branston.
Vice-Chairman : Mr. G. W. Hutson, North Hykeham, Lincoln.
Treasurer : National Provincial Bank Limited, Lincoln.
Medical Officer of Health : Dr. W. Sharrard, The Avenue, Lincoln.
Clerk & Chief Financial Officer : Mr. F. Foster,
Deputy Clerk : Mr. William Epton, Solicitor, Lincoln.

Rating and Valuation Officer : Mr. A. Elkington,
Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector : Mr. J. Chadwick,
Assistant Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector : Mr. J. K. M. Willis.

Council Offices : 31 Clasketgate, Lincoln, *Telephone No.* 8617.
Surveyors — 10095
Pumping Station, Waneham Bridge, Metheringham. *Telephone No.* 230.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman act as *ex-officio* members of all Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council (except the Rating Committee).

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen.

As your Medical Officer of Health, I beg to lay before you my report of the Health and Sanitary conditions of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1948.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (acres)	102,178
Population 1947	22,780
1948	24,780
Number of Inhabited Houses, 1921	3,825
" " " 1947	6,478
" " " 1948	6,660
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1921 ...	4,301
" " " " 1931 ...	4,931
Rateable Value (31st December, 1948)	£104,424
Sum represented by a penny rate	£431

The usual pursuits were carried on in the District, as also Crop-drying, Flax manufacture and Pest Control, and a large Malleable Iron Works at North Hykeham ; the two latter have markedly enlarged in recent times.

VITAL STATISTICS

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births—Legitimate	446	236	210	Birth Rate 18.8 (20.76)
Illegitimate	21	12	9	
Still Births—Legimitate	9	4	5	Rate per 1,000
Illegitimate	1	1	0	Total Births 20.96 (40.2)
Deaths...	250	130	120	Death Rate 10.1 (12.2)

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth ... ... } from sepsis 0; from other causes 1

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births :—Total 36.4 (27.5)

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	0
Diphtheria	0

Pneumonia was accountable for 3.6% of the deaths. Cancer 16.4%
Heart Disease 29.6% Tuberculosis, respiratory, 2.4% Influenza 0
Infantile mortality is above that for England and Wales, but below 126 Great Towns.

GENERAL PROVISIONS of the HEALTH SERVICES in the AREA

These are substantially the same as in the year previous.
Beds still are scarce, however. Ambulance service very well used.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Salvage—The following has been collected and disposed of by the Council during the year under the control of your Sanitary Inspector :—

	TONS	CWTS.	QRS.
Paper	45	2	6
Textiles	—	6	3
Bones	—	—	—
Iron and other Metal ...	3	12	3
Total Weight	49	3	0

Total value, £316 14s. 7d.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Visits to Slaughterhouses	534
Horses inspected	835
Beasts inspected	1
Food Preparing Premises	37
Drains Tested	238
Housing Inspection	154
Inspections on Complaint	119
Inspections *re* Nuisances...	50
Other Inspections under Public Health Act	157
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	58
Infectious Diseases	22
Houses Disinfected	17
Water Samples taken	39
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc....	20
Sewer Dykes	61
Visits *re* Water Supplies	279
Visits to Council Houses	595
Sewage Works	212
Houses in Course of Erection	1,052
Scavenging	104
Rural Housing Survey (Houses Inspected)	135
Civil Building Control	341
War Damage	22
Visits *re* Conversion of Military Premises	51
Visits to Housing Sites	335
Factories Inspected	11
Visits *re* Salvage	55

Food Condemned

	tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Beef	—	1	3	15
Horseflesh...	7	9	3	—
Horseflesh Offals...	—	11	1	10
Other Tinned Foods	—	—	—	26½

Housing Generally

Since the war, tenders have been let for the erection of 300 permanent houses. 186 houses have been completed and of these, 71 traditional houses and 42 Airey houses were completed during the year. At the end of the year 22 traditional houses and 34 Airey houses were in course of construction.

26 houses were completed by private builders during the year making a total of 100 completed since the war. 8 private dwellings were under construction at the year end.

Water Supply

Work has been commenced on the water main extensions to the Parishes of Thorpe-on-the-Hill, Eagle, Whisby, Doddington, Swinethorpe and North Scarle.

When completed each of our 32 Parishes will have a public water supply. We have also been able to afford a supply to isolated Parishes of the East and West Rural District Councils.

Samples of water are regularly taken by your officers, and any suspicion as to its purity is immediately reported to me. During the past year the waters have been of a high standard of purity.

Detailed Water Supply

	Direct Services		*Pillar Fountains*	
	No. of Properties served	*Popl'n served*	*No. of Properties served*	*Popl'n served*
Auborn, Haddington and South Hykeham	127	436	24	82
Bassingham	84	291	40	136
Beckingham	42	144	28	97
Boothby Graffoe	35	119	—	—
Bracebridge Heath	404	1200	—	—
Branston and Mere	255	886	116	392
Brant Broughton and Stragglethorpe	81	279	60	208
Canwick	74	257	—	—
Carlton-le-Moorland	30	100	24	82
Coleby	57	204	32	110
Doddington and Whisby... ...	—	—	—	—
Dunston	56	193	60	208

	Direct Services		Pillar Fountains	
	No. of Properties served	*Popl'n served*	*No. of Properties served*	*Popl'n served*
Eagle and Swinethorpe	—	—	—	—
Harmston	35	118	36	123
Heighington	154	523	60	208
Leadenham...	82	279	6	24
Metheringham	190	653	136	470
Navenby (includes Skinnard) ...	106	365	56	193
Nocton	30	104	24	82
North Hykeham	883	2879	—	—
North Scarle	—	—	—	—
Norton Disney	11	39	12	41
Potterhanworth	49	167	24	82
Skellingthorpe	229	790	—	—
Stapleford	6	22	24	84
Swinderby	46	160	—	—
Thorpe-on-the-Hill (includes Morton)	2	7	—	—
Thurlby	11	40	6	24
Waddington	273	911	120	410
Washingborough	140	483	88	310
Welbourn	187	297	32	110
Wellingore	57	195	40	138

Samples taken from Public Supplies in 1948

Nature of Sample	*Satisfactory*	*Unsatisfactory*	TOTAL
Chemical	1	—	1
Bacteriological	32	—	32

Scavenging

The collection of household refuse has been extended to all our Parishes during the past year. 21 Parishes are by contract and the remaining 11 by direct labour.

New Sewage Schemes

During the year the sewage disposal plant installed to serve the new housing estate at Meadow Lane, North Hykeham, was completed and is operating satisfactorily, serving 87 permanent houses and 15 prefabricated bungalows.

The temporary sewage disposal scheme commenced in 1947 to serve the Council's housing site at Branston was completed. At present it serves 30 permanent houses and 15 prefabricated bungalows.

The Ministry have approved the schemes for North Hykeham and Waddington Parishes, and tenders for these are being invited.

Public Health Act and Housing Act, 1936

20 Preliminary Notices have been served during the year. 28 Statutory Notices have been served and 27 have been complied with by the Owners.

The Council have carried out work in default of one Owner to the amount of £16 10s. 0d.

4,725 inspections have been made in the District by your Sanitary Inspectors during the year.

Tuberculosis (New Cases in 1948)

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Totals	14	7	0	3
Deaths	3	3	0	0

DISEASES	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED	CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL	TOTAL DEATHS
Small Pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	20	—	—
Diphtheria	7	7	—
Enteric Fever	2	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	7	2	9
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Acute Polio-Myelitis	1	1	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Measles	233	4	1
Whooping Cough	71	1	—
Dysentry	1	1	—
Malaria (R)	2	—	—

GENERAL REMARKS

The proof of the extraordinary efficacy of Diphtheria Immunisation continues to be shown by the absence of deaths and the diminished incidence of new cases. Of the 7 cases notified during the year, the respective ages were 6, 17, 18, 21, 24, 40, 40 : and the only child to be notified had never been immunised.

The experience of the country as a whole shows the same marked trend, the number of cases for 1948, being under one fifth that of 1945. The case fatality has, however, remained about the same during that time.

Housing is being tackled with the utmost intensity. But we cannot even pretend to keep pace with the demand, let alone make great inroads into the long list of applicants whose tales make fantastic reading at times. Their plight is ever before us and the disappointed ones can feel that their cases are carefully and thoroughly investigated by the Council.

Old R.A.F. hutments have been converted to make temporary homes, and have been much appreciated, but a quick return to traditional houses in numbers is the more preferable in my opinion.

The new National Health Service has been in force for the latter half of the year. The public seem to have become "well-sold" on the scheme and the amenities of spectacles and teeth have entailed enormous cost, to the country. The hospital service has been cramped by markedly increasing demand with no increase in hospital beds due to shortage of nurses and domestic staff and new buildings.

The provision of care for the aged sick in this connection is very troubling, as beds are not so freely available for the chronic sick in "public assistance" hospitals as previously. Investigation into these cases has shown the necessity for active treatment in geriatrics as the most important part of that science. "Get them up, keep them interested and send them out," is the attitude most essential to prevent beds being blocked by aged sick. Hostels, flats, out-patient clinics—these could help to prevent hospital wards selling up. Independence must be fostered, however, to a very great degree and the countryman is usually well endowed with this quality.

Our water supply system is at last reaching out to every village in our district—a notable achievement.

Sewage disposal is ever before us, and at long last North Hykeham is in sight of a comprehensive scheme !

Statistically, improvement is shown to be steadily progressive. Infantile mortality has improved particularly during the first week and the second six months of life and onwards. The death rate from cancer at ages, say 40 to 55, has increased by one third, compared with 10 to 15 years ago, and in the last 15 years death rates attributed to coronary heart disease have almost doubled, though the rate in the country districts seems to be slightly less than in the town, possibly because life is more serene and less hectic on the whole in rural areas.

We must progress steadily and surely. I think we have, and to this end your Inspectors and their staffs have contributed handsomely, for which I thank them sincerely.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. SHARRARD.

APPENDIX I.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	M.	F.
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...		
2 Cerebro-spinal fever		
3 Scarlet fever ...		
4 Whooping cough		
5 Diphtheria ...		
6 Tuberculosis of respiratory system...	3	3
7 Other tuberculosis diseases		
8 Syphilis	1	
9 Influenza ...		
10 Measles		1
11 Anto Polio-Myelitis		
12 Ac. Inf. Encephalitis		
13 Cancer of bucc. cavity and uterus	2	1
14 Cancer—Stomach and duodenum ...	1	1
15 Breast		8
16 All others ...	16	12
17 Diabetes	1	1
18 Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc. ...	12	19
19 Heart disease ...	44	30
20 Other circulatory diseases	4	7
21 Bronchitis ...	7	3
22 Pneumonia (all forms)	2	7
23 Other respiratory diseases	2	1
24 Ulcer of Stomach or Duodeunm ...	2	1
25 Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years) ...		
26 Appendicitis ...	1	3
27 Other digestive diseases	3	2
28 Acute and chronic nephritis ...	4	
29 Puerperal sepsis		
30 Other maternal causes		1
31 Premature birth	1	1
32 Congenital malformations, etc. ...	2	3
33 Suicide	3	
34 Road Traffic Accident ...		
35 Other violence ...	2	3
36 All other causes ...	17	12
All causes	130	120

	M.	F.
Deaths of Infants under 1 year :—Total	6	11
Legitimate	6	8
Illegitimate	0	3
Live Births—	M.	F.
Total	248	219
Legitimate	236	210
Illegitimate	12	9
Stillbirths—Total	5	5
Legitimate	4	5
Illegitimate	1	0
Population		24,780

APPENDIX II

BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1948.

—	Birth Rate per 1,000 Total population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population								Rate per live 1,000 Births	
	Live Births	Still-births	All Causes	Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fevers	Small-pox	Tuberculosis	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales	17.9	.42	10.8	0.00	0.00	.51	0.000	.02	.00	.03	3.3	34
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	20	.52	11.6	0.00	0.00	.59	.00	.02	.00	.03	4.5	39
148 Smaller Towns (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931)	19.2	.43	10.7	0.00	0.00	.46	.00	.02	.00	.04	2.1	32
London	20.1	.39	11.6	0.00	0.00	.63	.00	.01	.01	.02	2.4	31
NORTH KESTEVEN.....	18.8	.40	10.1	0.00	0.00	.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	.00	0	36.4